



**Livestock and Seed Program
Audit, Review, and Compliance Branch
Quality System Audit Report**

Applicant: Maharishi Vedic Organic Agriculture Institute (MVOAI)
Program : National Organic Program – 2004 Annual Update Review – Desk Audit
Location(s): Casper, WY
Audit Date(s): June 17-18, 2004
Audit File Number: NP4169OA
Action Required: Yes
Auditor(s): Darrell Wilson
Contact & Title: Jack and Marybeth Boles and/or John Konhaus (President)
E-mail Address: mvoai@maharishi.net

AUDIT ACTIVITIES

On June 17-18, 2004 a representative of the Audit Review and Compliance (ARC) Branch conducted a review of annual update information and documents submitted by Maharishi Vedic Organic Agriculture Institute (MVOAI) Casper, WY to verify continued compliance to the USDA, AMS 7CFR Part 205, National Organic Program (NOP).

MVOAI has moved its office to 1431 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 3, Casper, WY, 82609. Their telephone number is (307)237-1055, FAX (307)237-5547. MVOAI has indicated that USDA has been notified and all media communications have been changed to reflect the address change. A review of the materials submitted indicated no major changes in the certification process or method of operations since the last annual update. MVOAI anticipates to extend certification to Florida, Texas, Colorado and Venezuela.

Jack and Marybeth Boles have been added to the list of personnel. Qualifications for all personnel were submitted. The non-compliance from last annual update is still outstanding.

The following information was provided:

- A completed ARC 1025C checklist
- The required client files (MVOAI had only 6 clients at the time of the update)
- The complete roster of certified clients
- The complete roster of personnel and their positions (via email as a response for information)
- Conflict of interest declarations for all personnel
- An internal quality audit report dated December 2003
- Annual Performance evaluations for all personnel
- Client files including minutes of certification committee meetings.

FINDINGS

As a result of this review, the auditor concludes that MVOAI provided certification services in compliance to the National Organic Program Final Rule 7 CFR Part 205. One minor non-compliance remains outstanding. There were no non-compliances identified during this audit.

Outstanding Non-compliance:

NP4064GA.NC1- Minor - 205.501(a)(11)(iv) –Not giving advice or providing consultancy services, to certification applicants or certified operations, for overcoming identified barriers to certification. *In both client files submitted the recommendations made by MVOAI were consulting issues. Example: MVOAI recommended a client change his planting schedule to prevent the possible contamination of GMOs.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that MVOAI's accreditation be continued with surveillance audits by appropriate members of the USDA. MVOAI should respond to the non-compliance identified in the findings section of this report within a time frame established by the Program Coordinator.